

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. By this amendment the applicants have cancelled claims 2, 8 and 23 and added new claim 40. Claims 21 and 28-39 had been withdrawn from consideration. Thus, claims 1, 3-7, 9-20, 22, 24-27 and 40 remain in the application.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9-20, 22, 24-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent No. 5,053,133 to Klein. The Examiner objected to claims 2, 4, 8 and 23 as dependent on a rejected base claim but noted that they would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

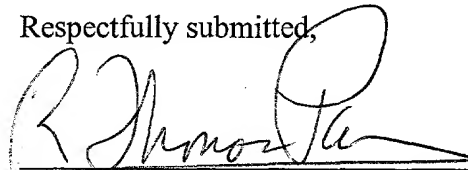
In an effort to move this application to allowance, applicants have incorporated allowable claims 2, 8 and 23 into their respective independent claim and, as such, are believed allowable in accordance with the Examiner's office action and an action acknowledging same is respectfully requested. Further, applicants have combined allowable claims 2 and 4 with original claim 1 as new claim 40. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 40 is also allowable and an action acknowledging same is respectfully requested.

Thus, after entry of the above amendments, it is applicants' position that the application is now in condition for allowance and an action acknowledging same is respectfully requested.

If after reviewing this amendment, should the Examiner have questions or require additional information, he is cordially invited to call the undersigned attorney so this case may receive an early notice of allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Any fees or charges due as a result of filing the present paper may be charged against Deposit Account No. 11-0231.

Respectfully submitted,



R. Thomas Payne, Reg. No. 30,674
Attorney for Applicant(s)

September 5, 2003

Four Stamford Plaza
P.O. Box 120
Stamford, CT 06904-0120
Tel. No. (203) 351-4192
.StmLib1:1027309.1 09/05/03